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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2149  
INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000173

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SUBJECT: REQUESTING UAE VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN POLICY

REF: A) STATE 14097, B) 08 ABU DHABI 1291

Classified by Ambassador Richard Olson, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar Gargash took careful notes February 18 as the Ambassador delivered ref A points regarding U.S. interest in the UAE's "considered views" on goals, priorities, and actions that we might focus on in our Pakistan/Afghanistan policy review. Dr. Gargash was familiar with the rough 6-week timeline for the review (Ambassador noted that the April 4 NATO summit was one key driver in the timing) and undertook to supply UAEG views by mid-March.

¶2. (C) Comment: The UAEG is seized with issues of stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan; it hosts roughly 900,000 Pakistani nationals (from unskilled workers to wealthy businessmen), which matches the entire population of Emirati nationals. UAE leaders have strong personal ties to Pakistani leaders, including the late PM Benazir Bhutto, and were nervous about stability when Musharraf was under pressure to resign last year. Abu Dhabi hosted the mid-November "Friends of Pakistan" group and is genuinely interested in assisting stable development (although cautious about donating without assurances of wise implementation of projects). On the Afghan side of the border, the UAEG has 300 special operations troops on the ground supporting ISAF and has made significant humanitarian and development contributions in Afghanistan (ref B). We anticipate that the UAEG will want to share views on these issues and will report further conversations on the matter. End comment.

OLSON